

JUN 25 2007

Application No.: 10/549,756

Docket No.: JCLA18017

AMENDMENTS

Drawings

Please replace the drawings with the replacement drawing sheets submitted hereby, in which the Figs. 9-11 have been marked with "Prior Art" as instructed by the Examiner.

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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding nonfinal Office Action mailed April 02, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figs. 9-11 have been amended as instructed by the Examiner, and therefore they are submitted to be in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuzawa (US 6,782,162).

In response thereto, Applicants hereby otherwise traverse these rejections. As such, Applicants submit that the present invention as set forth in claims 1, 5, and 8 is novel and unobvious over Fukuzawa, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

With respect to claim 1, as currently amended, recites in parts:

An optical collimator, comprising:

a cylindrical eccentric sleeve;

a partially spherical lens having ... translucent spherical surfaces with approximately the same center of curvature at both ends of the columnar

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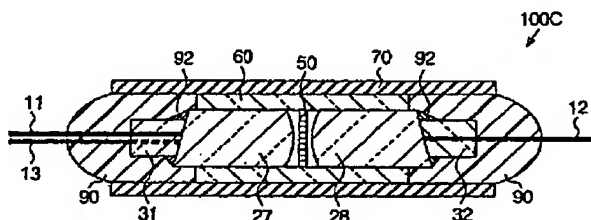
portion; and

a capillary tube fixed into the eccentric sleeve

... (Emphasis added)

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relied upon Fig. 10 of Fukuzawa.

Fig.10



Applicants submit that Fukuzawa fails to teach each and every limitation as follows:

1. Fukuzawa fails to teach "a cylindrical eccentric sleeve". In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner interpreted item 60 of Fukuzawa as reading on the cylindrical eccentric sleeve. However, as shown in Fig. 10, item 60 of Fukuzawa most likely has a uniform wall and contains items 27 and 28 substantially in its central part. Since there is no teaching either shown in Fig. 10, or provided in the specification of Fukuzawa showing that the item 60 is a eccentric sleeve, this limitation is neither taught, suggested, nor disclosed by Fukuzawa;
2. Fukuzawa fails to teach "a partially spherical lens having ... translucent spherical surfaces with approximately the same center of curvature at both ends of the columnar portion" (Emphasis added). Addressing this limitation,

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- the Examiner designated item 27. However, as shown in Fig. 10 and described in col. 12, lines 55-58, "[T]he cylindrical-shaped convex lenses 27, 28 consist of cylinder-shaped homogeneous glass, whose one end face is treated to be a spherical surface. The other end face is plane ...". While the claimed invention requires a partially spherical lens having spherical surfaces at both ends of the columnar portion, Fukuzawa's item 27 having a spherical surface at one end and a plane surface at another end is clearly distinct from the claimed invention; and
3. Fukuzawa fails to teach "a capillary tube **fixed into the eccentric sleeve**" (Emphasis added). Addressing this limitation, the Examiner designated item 31. However, as shown in Fig. 10, item 31 is clearly positioned outside item 60 which was interpreted to be a sleeve. Therefore, the alleged capillary tube can not be fixed into the alleged eccentric sleeve.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and its dependent claims 5 and 8 are submitted to be allowable over the cited references.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unptentable over Fukuzawa.

In response thereto, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 depend on allowable independent claim 1, and thus should also be allowable.

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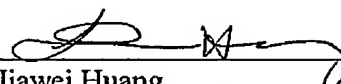
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-10 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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